REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1 and 23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 24-29 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Seino (U.S. 4,639,694). Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, this rejection is moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Februs 1,2005

Douglas P. Mueller Reg. No. 30,300

DPM:ae